

(ii) a cleaning gas activator for activating the cleaning gas in radical form; and

(iii) a temperature and timing controller comprising a program including a cleaning sequence which is activated after completion of film formation, said cleaning sequence programmed to (1) introduce an inert gas to the reaction chamber, (2) reduce the temperature of the susceptor at a predetermined rate for cleaning, (3) when reaching a cleaning temperature which is lower than the film formation temperature, actuate the cleaning gas controller and the cleaning gas activator, and (4) evacuate the reaction chamber.

2. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the controller is programmed so that the temperature of the susceptor is reduced to 500°C or less before the cleaning gas is activated.

3. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the controller is programmed so that the temperature of the susceptor is reduced to 470°C or less before the cleaning gas is activated.

4. (Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the controller is programmed to increase the temperature of the susceptor higher than 500°C for film formation.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 have been amended. Support for Claims 1-4 can be found throughout the specification. As such, no new matter has been added. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE." Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Affirmation of Election of Claims 1-10

Applicants affirm that the election of Group I, Claims 1-10, without prejudice and reserve the right to file a divisional application including Claims 11-20.

Rejection of Claims 1-10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frankel et al. (US Patent 6019848) in view of Goodwin et al. (US Patent 4874464). Applicants